

Message Text

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SUBJ: ACADEMIC EXCHANGES: PROBLEM OF PROGRAM BALANCE

REF: BELGRADE 2636

SUMMARY: TEAPOT-SIZED TEMPEST MAY ENDANGER FLOURISHING
FULBRIGHT PROGRAM IN YUGOSLAVIA. ALTHOUGH YUGOSLAV SIDE
DUTIFULLY PRESENT BALANCED SLATE OF CANDIDATES FOR FULL
GRANTS IN 1977/78, THEY INSIST WE APPROVE LIST OF TRAVEL-
ONLY GRANTEES FOR 1976 PROGRAM COMPOSED PREDOMINANTLY OF
SCIENTISTS, ARGUING THAT COMMISSION HAS NO CONTROL OVER COMPOSITION
THIS LIST AND MUST ACCEPT ANY AND ALL QUALIFIED CANDIDATES,
DESPITE THEIR FIELD. WE UNABLE ACCEPT THIS POSITION AND
APPEARS BOTH SIDES HAVE REACHED IMPASSE.

1. AS REPORTED REFTEL, YUGOSLAV SIDE OBJECTING TO 50/50 SPLIT
BETWEEN HARD SCIENCES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES/HUMANITIES FOR
YUGOSLAV PARTICIPANTS. THEY RELUCTANTLY APPROVED 1977/78
PROGRAM PROPOSAL INCORPORATING THIS PRINCIPLE BUT REFUSED
ACCEPT THIS AS FUTURE GUIDELINE. WE ANTICIPATED WE WOULD
THEREFORE HAVE DIFFICULTIES GETTING THEM TO PROPOSE
BALANCED SLATE OF CANDIDATES FOR FULL GRANTS FOR 1977/78;
HOWEVER, YUGOSLAV ADVISORY COMMITTEE DULY CAME UP WITH
COMPLETELY BALANCED TICKET WHICH BOTH SIDES OF COMMISSION
SUBSEQUENTLY APPROVED AT MEETING JUNE 22.

2. TROUBLE HAS NOW ARISEN OVER COMPOSITION OF LIST OF

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CANDIDATES FOR TRAVEL-ONLY GRANTS FOR AY 1976. YUGOSLAV

ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED TO AYEC SOME 40 TRAVEL-ONLY CANDIDATES AT CLOSE OF COMPETITION FOR THESE GRANTS. OF THESE, ONLY SEVEN ARE IN SOCIAL SCIENCE/HUMANITIES; REMAINDER ARE IN SCIENCE. YUGOSLAV SIDE OF AYEC INSISTS THAT ALL 40 BE NOMINATED TO BFS FOR GRANTS DESPITE THIS IMBALANCE. (WHILE PROGRAM PROPOSAL FOR AY 1976 LISTED TRAVEL-ONLY GRANTS AS "UNSPECIFIED AS TO FIELD", COMPETITION ANNOUNCEMENT SAID 2-3 GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR SCIENCE, 22 FOR SOCIAL SCIENCE/HUMANITIES.) YUGOSLAVS THEREFORE FEEL THEY HAVE MADE SUFFICIENT GESTURE TOWARD PROGRAM BALANCE BY ADVERTISING FOR EQUAL NUMBER OF GRANTS. IF SUFFICIENT NUMBER IN SOCIAL SCIENCE/HUMANITIES DO NOT APPLY, THOSE IN SCIENCE SHOULD NOT BE PENALIZED.

3. US POSITION IS THAT COMMISSION HAS BEEN WARNED BY BFS AND DEPARTMENT THEY UNHAPPY WITH COMPOSITION OF YUGOSLAV SIDE OF EXCHANGE IN PAST SEVERAL YEARS (PER STATE 225270 OF SEPT 23, 1973) AND THAT BOARD ONLY APPROVED 1976 PROGRAM PROPOSAL ON UNDERSTANDING COMMISSION'S PERFORMANCE IN THIS RESPECT WOULD IMPROVE. TRUE, BFS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT COMPOSITION OF FULL GRANT PANEL; HOWEVER, PROGRAM COMPOSITION CAN NEVER BE BALANCED IF NO THOUGHT GIVEN TO TRAVEL-ONLY GRANTS AS WELL. US SIDE CAN THEREFORE NOT AGREE TO PROPOSED TRAVEL-ONLY PANEL SO HEAVILY IMBALANCED IN FAVOR OF SCIENCES. BASING OUR POSITION ON STATE 225270 OF SEPTEMBER 23, 1975, WE HAVE HELD THAT NUMBER OF TRAVEL-ONLY GRANTS AWARDED TO SCIENTISTS CANNOT EXCEED NUMBER GIVEN THOSE IN SOCIAL SCIENCE/HUMANITIES (IN THIS CASE, SEVEN). COMMISSION DOES NOT HAVE TO AWARD MAXIMUM NUMBER OF TRAVEL GRANTS IT CAN AFFORD DURING PROGRAM YEAR AT ONE BLOW; IT CAN HOLD SUPPLEMENTARY COMPETITION TO ATTRACT MORE CANDIDATES IN SOCIAL SCIENCES/HUMANITIES AND THUS WOULD BE ABLE AWARD MORE GRANTS TO SCIENTISTS TOO.

4. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE FROM BELGRADE 3527 AND AYEC MEMO 61 (BRANDT DS-4 TO CU/EE OF JUNE 28), COMMISSION SHORT SOME DOLS 35,000 IN DINAR EQUIVALENT IN ORDER CARRY OUT PROGRAM AS PLANNED IN 1976/77 PROGRAM PROPOSAL. US SIDE HAS INFORMED AYEC EXECUTIVE SECRETARY RUKAVINA IT UNWILLING SUPPORT HIS REQUEST FOR SUPPLEMENTARY MONEY IF IT MEANS THAT PROGRAM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOR THIS YEAR WILL BECOME FURTHER IMBALANCED DUE TO LARGE NUMBER OF TRAVEL-ONLY GRANTS IN SCIENCES. (FYI, BREAK-DOWN ON FULL GRANTS FOR YUGOSLAVS PLACED AY 1975-76 IS 23 IN SCIENCE, 11 IN SOCIAL SCIENCES/HUMANITIES). OUR EARLIER REQUEST (BELGRADE 3527) FOR ADDITIONAL MONEY FROM TRANSITIONAL QUARTER FUNDS MADE BEFORE WE KNEW HOW DIS-PROPORTIONATE TRAVEL-ONLY PANEL WOULD BE. RUKAVINA HAS ACCORDINGLY PROPOSED REVISED PROGRAM PROPOSAL WHICH

WOULD ELIMINATE SOME 10 POSITIONS FOR US GRANTEES (POSITIONS WHICH HAVE NOT YET BEEN FILLED AND IN SEVERAL CASES UNLIKELY TO BE FILLED) AND REDUCE NUMBER OF PROPOSED TRAVEL-ONLY GRANTS FOR YUGOSLAVS TO 36. EVEN SO, ALL THESE GRANTS AWARDED NOW, RESULT WOULD BE TREMENDOUS IMBALANCE IN FAVOR OF SCIENTISTS SINCE ONLY SEVEN CANDIDATES IN OTHER FIELDS AVAILABLE AT PRESENT.

5. YUGOSLAV SIDE BEING EXTREMELY HARD-NOSED ON QUESTION OF DISPOSITION OF THESE TRAVEL-ONLY GRANTS. THEY MAINTAIN THEIR INTEREST IS MAINLY IN SCI/TECH WHILE US'S IS SOCIAL SCIENCE/HUMANITIES. ALSO, THAT IF US GRANTEES MOSTLY IN SOCIAL SCIENCE AND YUGOSLAV ONES IN HARD SCIENCE, PROGRAM WILL BE BALANCED. (THIS IS SPECIOUS SINCE NUMBER OF US GRANTEES ABOUT ONE-THIRD LESS THAN NUMBER OF YUGOSLAV GRANTS.) EVEN ACCEPTING THEIR PREMISE, THIS DOES NOT LEAD TO PROGRAM BALANCE IN PRACTICE. IN 1974/75 PROGRAM, LATEST ONE FOR WHICH COMPLETE FIGURES AVAILABLE, OUT OF TOTAL OF 104 GRANTEES (YUGOSLAV AND AMERICAN) 67 WERE IN SCIENCE, 37 IN OTHER DISCIPLINES. OF THIS NUMBER, ONLY 38 GRANTEES WERE AMERICANS, YUGOSLAVS ARGUE THAT OUR INSISTENCE ON 50/50 SPLIT IN GRANTS TO YUGOSLAVS UNFAIR SINCE IT PUTS THEM IN UNEQUAL POSITION (I.E., WE HAVE NOT INSISTED THAT US SIDE OF THE PROGRAM BE SIMILARLY BALANCED: IN FACT, IT OFTEN IS). THEY CANNOT AGREE TO THIS (FAMILIAR YUGOSLAV NEGOTIATIONG POSITION) AND HAVE REQUESTED BOARD MEETING ON JULY 19 TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER.

6. AT MEETING, US SIDE INTENDS POINT OUT ITS VERY FIRM INTENTION THAT YUGOSLAV SIDE OF PROGRAM BE BALANCED PER BFS INSTRUCTIONS. WILL ALSO EXPRESS OUR DISAPPOINTMENT THAT SO FEW CANDIDATES IN SOCIAL SCIENCES/HUMANITIES HAVE APPLIED. WHILE WE WILLING TO ALLOW TEMPORARY IMBALANCE IN PRESENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TRAVEL-ONLY PANEL, SAY UP TO 13 OR 14 IN SCIENCE AS OPPOSED TO SEVEN IN SOCIAL SCIENCE/HUMANITIES, WE FEEL ANOTHER COMPETITION MUST BE HELD TO LOCATE ADDITIONAL CANDIDATES IN SOCIAL SCIENCE TO BRING THAT FIELD UP TO PARITY WITH SCIENCE.
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